

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4026

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1275

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJECT: PEKING WALL POSTERS

1. ADDRESSEES WILL HAVE SEEN PRESS REPORTS OF WALL POSTER PUT UP JULY 8 IN FOUR PLACES NEAR WORKERS STADIUM IN PEKING. LYE SMALL, MIMEOGRAPHED POSTER IS SEVERAL PAGES LONG AND SIGNED BY TWO ARMY MEN. IT ATTACKS THE DEPUTY COMMISSAR OF THEIR UNIT, TAI KENG-YIN (2071/1649/1377), FOR OPPOSING THE CURRENT DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT CAMPAIGN, SUPPRESSING THE POSTER WRITERS, AND COLLUDING WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE FINANCE OFFICE TO ATTACK CHIANG CH'ING. POSTERS WERE QUICKLY TORN DOWN WHEN FOREIGN NEWSMEN SHOWED INTEREST. REUTER CORRESPONDENT AND WIFE OF TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL CORRESPONDENT PHOTOGRAPHING SEGMENTS OF THE POSTER WERE DETAINED AN HOUR BY THE "MASSES" UNTIL THEY AGREED TO HAND OVER THEIR FILM. SECURITY PERSONNEL CLAIMED THEY HAD PHOTOGRAPHED CHINESE--WHO HAD DELIBERATELY STEPPED IN FRONT OF THE POSTER--WITHOUT THEIR PERMISSION. DIPLOMATS AND NEWSMEN HERE HAVE SINCE BEEN SCOURING PEKING FOR MORE POSTERS, BUT NO OTHERS HAVE BEEN SEEN.

2. PROMPT AND TOUGH REACTION OF SECURITY FORCES TO THIS
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BREACH OF RULES BY PUTTING POSTERS OUTSIDE COMPOUNDS

SUGGESTS THAT THE REGIME IS NOT ABOUT TO ALLOW A REPTITION OF
LAST SUMMER'S PUBLIC POSTER CAMPAIGN. GENERAL
TIGHTENING OF SECURITY PATROLS IN DOWNTOWN PEKING OVER THE PAST
FEW MONTHS MAY ALSO BE INTENDED IN PART TO FORESTALL THE KIND
OF GUERRILLA WARFARE CARRIED ON BY POSTER-PASTERS IN CANTON.
THE PRC OBVIOUSLY DOES NOT WANT THIS KIND OF PUBLICITY WHILE
IT IS ATTEMPTING TO PROMOTE AN IMAGE OF STABILITY AND UNITY.

3. WE WOULD NOT MAKE TOO MUCH OF THE APPEARANCE OF ONE
POSTER BY DISGRUNTLED SOLDIERS. IT HAS BEEN EVIDENT FOR SEVERAL
YEARS THAT CHINESE SOCIETY IS FULL OF THIS KIND OF ANTAGONISM
AND UNSETTLED SCORES. HOWEVER, THE POSTER DOES TEND TO
CONFIRM REPORTS THAT INFLAMATORY POSTER CAMPAIGNS ARE GOING ON
OFF THE STREETS INSIDE UNIT COMPOUNDS AS SOME ELEMENTS
ATTEMPT TO USE THE CURRENT CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE THEIR OWN
POSITION AND PURGE THEIR ENEMIES. THE REFERENCE TO
CHIANG CHING WAS PRESUMABLY INCLUDED TO BRING ABOUT A
PURGE OF THE DEPUTY POLITICAL COMMISSAR, BUT IT ALSO TENDS TO
CONFIRM OTHER REPORTS THAT DISPARAGING REMARKS ABOUT
MADAME MAO ARE A WIDESPREAD PHENOMENON AT LOWER-LEVEL
ECHELONS OF THE CHINESE BUREAUCRACY.
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